

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 23, 2005  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2005  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2005  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2005  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 717**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon**  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jerome Horton)**  
***(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dymally)***  
***(Coauthors: Senators Romero and Vincent)***

February 17, 2005

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An act to add and repeal Section 1254.3 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 717, as amended, Gordon. Centinela Airport Clinic: emergency care.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities by the State Department of Health Services. Existing law requires the department to license a health facility to provide basic services associated with the type of health facility. Existing law authorizes the department to grant a special permit for a health facility to provide one or more special services, including emergency center services.

Existing law requires the department to issue a single consolidated license to a general acute care hospital that includes more than one

physical plant maintained and operated on separate premises or that has multiple licenses for a single health facility on the same premises if the general acute care hospital meets certain criteria and applicable requirements of licensure.

This bill would provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding reimbursement rates Centinela Airport Clinic shall receive private and government reimbursement rates equivalent to that of a contiguous emergency department of a general acute care hospital if the clinic meets 7 8 conditions.

*This bill would authorize the Centinella Airport Clinic to receive 911 telephone system transports of basic life-support patients at the rate applicable in October, 2004.*

The bill would require the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency to report to the Legislature by May 1, 2008, on the effect the clinic has had on the quality of emergency health care services provided to the community served, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Centinela Airport Clinic serves a
- 2 critical role in the provision of emergency services in Los
- 3 Angeles County.
- 4 (b) In the event of a disaster, terrorist attack, or other major
- 5 event at the Los Angeles International Airport, the Centinela
- 6 Airport Clinic's strategic proximity to the airport provides an
- 7 indispensable emergency center for triage and basic life-support
- 8 levels of emergency care.
- 9 (c) The Centinela Airport Clinic is the first freestanding
- 10 ambulance receiving facility in California approved by a local

1 emergency medical services agency to receive 911 telephone  
2 system basic life-support patients.

3 (d) The Centinela Airport Clinic is located in a geographic  
4 area that has a critical shortage of available emergency room  
5 services due to the closure of Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center  
6 and service changes at King Drew Medical Center.

7 (e) The Centinela Airport Clinic currently is being reimbursed  
8 at urgent care rates for 911 telephone system transport patients  
9 and these rates fall below the cost of treating these patients.

10 (f) *Absent the additional capacity and services provided by the*  
11 *clinic, these same patients will still remain in the emergency*  
12 *medical system and necessitate equivalent treatment at*  
13 *equivalent expense. They will likely wait longer, or may decide*  
14 *not to seek medical treatment increasing the likelihood that their*  
15 *health problem will become worse and may ultimately become*  
16 *more expensive to treat.*

17 (f)

18 (g) The Centinela Airport Clinic cannot continue to receive  
19 911 transport patients for the 2005 calendar year and thereafter at  
20 reimbursement rates that do not match the acuity level of the  
21 patients.

22 (h) *EMS response time and ability to answer other 911 calls is*  
23 *negatively impacted due to a lack of sufficient emergency*  
24 *department capacity and severe emergency department*  
25 *overcrowding in the Centinela service area. This poses an*  
26 *unnecessary risk to others in urgent need of health care.*

27 (i) *Utilizing this unique facility in a manner consistent with its*  
28 *full potential improves access to health care for all patients in*  
29 *the service area.*

30 (j) *The Centinela Clinic is viewed by the medical staff and*  
31 *other professionals at its three network hospitals as an extension*  
32 *of their emergency departments that increases their capacity to*  
33 *provide emergency services for the patients they serve.*

34 SEC. 2. Section 1254.3 is added to the Health and Safety  
35 Code, to read:

36 1254.3. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law  
37 regarding reimbursement rates, Centinela Airport Clinic shall  
38 receive private and government reimbursement rates equivalent  
39 to that of a contiguous emergency department of a general acute  
40 care hospital if the clinic meets all of the following requirements:

~~(1) Complies with all requirements applicable to a general acute care hospital emergency department, except that as an emergency receiving center, it may be a separate freestanding facility and not contiguous to a general acute care hospital.~~

*(1) Shall be operating under the same license and shall comply with the same requirements applicable to a general acute care hospital emergency department, except that it may be a separate freestanding facility and not contiguous to the general acute care hospital.*

*(2) Has a written agreement with the local emergency medical services agency, and complies with all policies and procedures for receiving basic life-support patients only.*

~~(2)~~

*(3) Is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.*

~~(3)~~

*(4) Maintains laboratory service capable of providing necessary radiology services.*

~~(4)~~

*(5) Is staffed by licensed physicians and surgeons who have medical staff privileges at a general acute care hospital and access to the general acute care hospital's oncall panel.*

~~(5)~~

*(6) Is staffed by licensed nurses in compliance with Section 1276.4.*

~~(6)~~

*(7) Is capable of transferring patients in need of a higher level of care to an appropriate hospital.*

~~(7)~~

*(8) Provides data to the department and the local emergency medical services agency to enable monitoring of the success of the Centinela Airport Clinic, including the following information:*

*(A) Acuity levels of patients.*

*(B) Patient transfer times to a higher level of care, measured from the time of the decision to transfer, to the time the patient is in route to the receiving hospital.*

*(C) The number of higher level of care transfers conducted through the 911 telephone system.*

~~(8)~~

1 (9) Does not advertise or use signage indicating it is an  
2 emergency department.

3 ~~(9) Has a written agreement with the local emergency medical~~  
4 ~~services agency authorizing the pilot program, and complies with~~  
5 ~~all policies and procedures for receiving basic life-support~~  
6 ~~patients only.~~

7 (b) *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Centinella*  
8 *Airport Clinic is hereby authorized to receive 911 telephone*  
9 *system transports of basic life-support patients, at the rate*  
10 *applicable October, 2004.*

11 ~~(b)~~  
12 (c) The Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services  
13 Agency shall report to the Legislature on or before May 1, 2008,  
14 about the effect that Centinela Airport Clinic has had on the  
15 quality of emergency health care services provided to the  
16 community served by the clinic. The report shall include, at  
17 minimum, the following:

18 (1) The number of patients transported to Centinela Airport  
19 Clinic by ambulance.

20 (2) The reimbursement to Centinela Airport Clinic for patients  
21 whose care was reimbursed, in whole or in part, by the State of  
22 California, including the Medi-Cal program, the California  
23 Childrens' Services Program, the Healthy Families Program, or  
24 by a health plan contracting with the California Public  
25 Employees' Retirement System, as compared to the  
26 reimbursement rate the clinic would have received had it not  
27 been reimbursed as a contiguous emergency department of an  
28 outpatient acute care hospital. The clinic shall furnish this  
29 information to the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical  
30 Services Agency.

31 (3) The effect of Centinela Airport Clinic on any reductions in  
32 wait times, to the extent that this information is available, and  
33 ambulance diversion at surrounding hospital emergency  
34 departments.

35 ~~(e)~~  
36 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
37 2009, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted  
38 statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends  
39 that date.

1 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that because of the  
2 unique circumstances applicable only to the Centinela Airport  
3 Clinic, a statute of general applicability cannot be enacted within  
4 the meaning of subdivision (b) of Section 16 of Article IV of the  
5 California Constitution. Therefore, this special statute is  
6 necessary.

7 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
8 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
9 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
10 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
11 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.